

REMARKS

Claim 19 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Claims 15 to 28 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this Response.

Claims 15 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,800 to Nassor ("Nassor reference").

The Nassor reference appears to concern a chip card having a processing means and main information storage means. Specifically, the Nassor reference refers to a method for loading and unloading the programmable memory as a function of the need for the programs and/or the applicative data, for an information processing device constituted by a card. The Nassor reference also refers to a method for opening a same application twice simultaneously to speed up time.

In contrast, claim 15 is directed to a method for releasing a data processing unit for processing project data of a project, and requires at least the following features: requesting usage permission for using the data processing unit to process project data belonging to a predetermined project; generating a first signature by signing predetermined project data belonging to the project; verifying the first signature for correctness; and releasing the data processing unit to process the project data belonging to the project if the first signature is verified as correct. Claim 15 concerns a different invention than the Nassor reference. The Nassor reference does not appear to identically disclose using signatures in order to release a data processing unit to process project data belonging to the project once the signature is verified as correct, as in claim 15.

Further, independent claims 17 and 22 recite features analogous to those of claim 15 and are allowable for essentially the same reasons as claim 15. The remaining claims depend from one of claims 15, 17, and 22, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as those claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by the Nassor reference.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that any outstanding rejections of claims 15 to 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) have been overcome, and that those claims are allowable as presented above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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